



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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### **Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Cautions Consumers on Raw Milk from Hartsbrook Farm in Hadley**

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) today alerted consumers of possible illegal presence of antibiotics in raw (unpasteurized) milk purchased directly from Hartsbrook Farm in Hadley. Hartsbrook had been selling raw milk without a valid permit from the DAR.

A routine sample of milk, taken by a state-certified laboratory on Monday, February 11 confirmed the presence of antibiotics. Milk is tested for antibiotics under US Food and Drug Administration and state guidelines, and there is zero tolerance under the regulations for the presence of antibiotics in raw milk. Antibiotics entering the food chain may lead to allergic reactions in humans and development of antibiotic resistant strains of bacteria.

Under Massachusetts regulations, consumers may only purchase unpasteurized milk from the farm where it is produced, and farms selling raw milk must be licensed by the DAR. Retail food stores and restaurants are prohibited from selling and using unpasteurized milk.

The antibiotic-tainted milk from Hartsbrook Farm did not enter any stores or other food distribution channels, and to date no illnesses associated with products from the farm have been reported to the state. Consumers who purchased directly from Hartsbrook should discard the milk immediately.

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